

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BANGUI 00702 131425Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-07 DHA-02 AID-05 IGA-02

EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 OES-06 PC-01 FEAE-00 ERDA-05

NRC-05 INT-05 /128 W

-----131433Z 054821 /50

R 130827Z APR 77

FM AMEMBASSY BANGUI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8506

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

USMISSION USUN NY

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGUI 0702

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, SF, WA, US, CA, CG, AO

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN SOUTHERN & CENTRAL AFRICAN; US-CENTRAL
AFRICAN RELATIONS

REF: A. STATE 078517; B. STATE 075266; C. STATE 078034

1. DURING MY APRIL 11 CALL ON FOREIGN MINISTER MOKODOPO,
I BRIEFED HIM ON MY RECENT CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON.
I SAID THAT AT ALL LEVELS IN THE US GOVERNMENT I HAD
FOUND A HEIGHTENED AWARENESS OF AFRICA, OF THE NEED FOR
THE UNITED STATES TO PLAY AN ACTIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE
ROLE, AND OF THE IMPORTANCE OF ACCELERATING MOVEMENT
TOWARDS MAJORITY RULE AND AN END TO RACISM. I
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PAGE 02 BANGUI 00702 131425Z

COMMENTED ON SEVERAL SPECIFICS INCLUDING OUR DEMARCHE TO
SOUTH AFRICA ON NAMIBIA (REF A) AND OUR SUPPORT FOR
FOREIGN SECRETARY OWENS' MISSION (REF B). I ALSO NOTED
OUR ASSISTANCE TO ZAIRE, COORDINATED WITH THE FRENCH AND
BELGIANS, FOLLOWING THE INVASION OF THE SHABA PROVINCE
LAST MONTH.

2. THE OTHER MAJOR IMPRESSION WHICH I PASSED ON TO MOKODOPO WAS THE NEW ADMINISTRATION'S SHARPLY INCREASED CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. I GAVE HIM A COPY OF PRESIDENT CARTER'S UN SPEECH AND POINTED OUT ITS EMPHASIS ON FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS. I SAID THAT I HAD DRAWN WASHINGTON'S ATTENTION TO THE NEW CENTRAL AFRICAN CONSTITUTION PARTICULARLY ITS GUARANTEES OF HUMAN RIGHTS. WE WELCOMED THE EVOLUTION OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN POLITICAL SYSTEM SET FORTH IN THE CONSTITUTION AND WE HOPED IT WOULD CONTINUE. MOKODOPO NODDED HIS UNDERSTANDING OF THIS POINT BUT DID NOT OFFER ANY COMMENT.

3. MOKODOPO REPLIED THAT THE CAE WAS WELL AWARE OF RECENT US INITIATIVES. IT PARTICULARLY WELCOMED US AID TO ZAIRE. MOKODOPO NOTED THAT HE HAD BEEN SENT RECENTLY TO ZAIRE TO MAKE CLEAR TO MOBUTU, EMPEROR BOKASSA'S OWN SUPPORT TO ZAIRE IN ITS TIMES OF TROUBLE. MOKODOPO SAID THAT THE GOCAE COULD NOT ACCEPT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE BY ONE AFRICAN STATE IN THE AFFAIRS OF ANOTHER, NOR COULD IT TOLERATE PLOTS HATCHED WITH SUPPORT OF FOREIGN POWERS. THIS, IN EFFECT, WAS A NEW FORM OF COLONIALISM. THE CAE WANTED SINCERE COOPERATION WITH ALL POWERS BUT WAS CONCERNED WHEN ONE GREAT POWER (VIZ THE SOVIET UNION) WAS PROMOTING AN INVASION OF A SOVEREIGN AFRICAN STATE.

4. MOKODOPO SAID HE WAS PLEASED AT THE GENERAL TREND IN OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. THE GOCAE APPRECIATED THE INCREASED AID WHICH IT HAS BEEN RECEIVING. IT HOPED
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 BANGUI 00702 131425Z

THAT ACTION WOULD BE TAKEN TO HELP WITH THE EXPLOITATION OF THE CAE'S POTENTIAL MINERAL WEALTH, WHICH HAD BEEN DISCOVERED AS A RESULT OF AMERICAN TECHNOLOGY. THE CAE WANTED THE US TO CONTINUE ITS CURRENT AID POLICIES. GOCAE WAS WILLING TO CONSIDER SYMPATHETICALLY ANY AID PROPOSALS USG WISHED TO MAKE. I NOTED THAT WE ANTICIPATED A MODERATE INCREASE IN OUR EFFORTS HERE. WE WOULD SOON HAVE AN AID OFFICER ASSIGNED TO BANGUI, THE NUMBER OF PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS WAS STEADILY INCREASING AND WOULD BE OVER 60 AT THE END OF THIS MONTH. WE ANTICIPATED EARLY SIGNATURE OF THE LARGE OUHAM PROJECT. IN COLLABORATION WITH OTHER POTENTIAL DONORS WE WERE EXAMINING ACTIONS WE MIGHT APPROPRIATELY TAKE AS A FOLLOW-ON TO THE DISCOVERY OF THE BANGUI ANOMALY.

5. MOKODOPO ALSO TOOK THE OCCASION OF MY CALL TO EXPRESS THE GOCAE'S APPROVAL FOR PRESIDENT CARTER'S RECENT STATEMENT ON NUCLEAR POLICY (REF C) A COPY OF WHICH WE HAD EARLIER SENT TO THE FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE SAID HE

HAD BEEN FOLLOWING THE SUBJECT ON THE VOICE OF AMERICA.
AS A URANIUM PRODUCER THE CAE HAD A DIRECT INTEREST
IN OUR POLICY. IT DID NOT WANT TO BECOME A FOCUS FOR
NUCLEAR WEAPONS' POWERS RIVALRY IN THEIR SEARCH FOR
SOURCES OF URANIUM. IT WELCOMED ALL EFFORTS TO LIMIT
THE TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY FOR WEAPONS PURPOSES.

6. COMMENT: THIS MEETING WAS MY FIRST WITH THE FOREIGN
MINISTER IN SEVERAL MONTHS. HE STRUCK A NOTE OF WARMTH
AND CORDIALITY THROUGHOUT AND WAS AT PAINS TO EMPHASIZE
THE GOCAE'S DESIRE FOR CONTINUED CLOSE COOPERATION WITH
US. HIS SUSPICIONS OF THE USSR SHOWED REPEATEDLY. I HAVE
LITTLE DOUBT THAT WITH BOKASSA'S APPROVAL HE WISHED TO
IMPRESS UPON ME THE GOCAE'S BASIC GOOD WILL TOWARD THE NEW
ADMINISTRATION AND ITS POLICIES.
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